

**WEST
CENTRAL
ILLINOIS
BRANCH**

Mary Alice Bybee
Branch Director

Judy Chew
Assistant
Branch Director

May 21, 2008

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W., Room TW-A325
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: MB Docket No. 04-233

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The West Central Illinois Branch of the Arthritis Foundation has been located in Quincy, Illinois since 1983. We are a branch of the Greater Illinois Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation with our state headquarters in Peoria, and our national headquarters in Atlanta. I have been associated with the Arthritis Foundation since 1992, serving as Branch Director for the past 9 years. On the local level, we provide programs and services for people who have arthritis, while hosting numerous fundraisers to support those efforts and research.

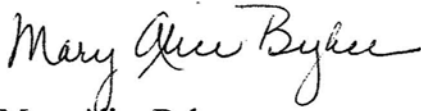
WGEM has been the media sponsor for all our events for the past 23 years, including producing and televising our branch's Arthritis Foundation Telethon. Since the national Telethon was eliminated in 1996, WGEM has continued to produce and televise a four hour live educational program for our local branch. I feel very strongly that there is no better way to broaden the awareness of the importance of early diagnosis and treatment of arthritis than the Telethon. The program includes interviews with area health professionals, pre-taped stories about area residents who live with arthritis, information on programs and services available in our area, and the traditional Telethon Phone Bank to collect pledges. WGEM includes the personal stories about area resident with arthritis in their newscast each evening during the week prior to the Telethon. They also produce and televise a promotional advertisement for the event several weeks prior to the broadcast. Four WGEM personalities host the event. The Telethon is the largest fundraiser annually for our branch office.

Besides the Telethon, WGEM has been the media sponsor for the annual Jingle Bell Run/Walk for Arthritis for the past 18 years, the Arthritis Walk for the past 5 years, and two golf tournaments that are named for a WGEM employee who has arthritis (10 years and 14 years respectively). Our support groups, seminars, and classes are all included on their Community Calendar. WGEM also includes us in

their morning radio talk show several times throughout the year, promoting our educational and fundraising events. It would be impossible for us to provide this type of coverage for our activities without WGEM's cooperation and willingness to assist us in attaining our goals. The station regularly includes news stories about arthritis on their daily newscasts, and we receive calls for more information as a result of their programming. WGEM staff members are involved in our activities and events on many levels, and the station's impact on our organization is immeasurable.

Since the mid 1980's we have been able to depend on WGEM to assist us in achieving our goals because they share in our commitment. I am concerned that FCC regulations on local programming will negatively affect the extremely satisfactory partnership we have with our local station. Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Alice Bybee". The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first and last names being more prominent than the middle name.

Mary Alice Bybee
Branch Director
West Central IL Branch of the Arthritis Foundation
Blessing @ 14th
Quincy, IL 62301